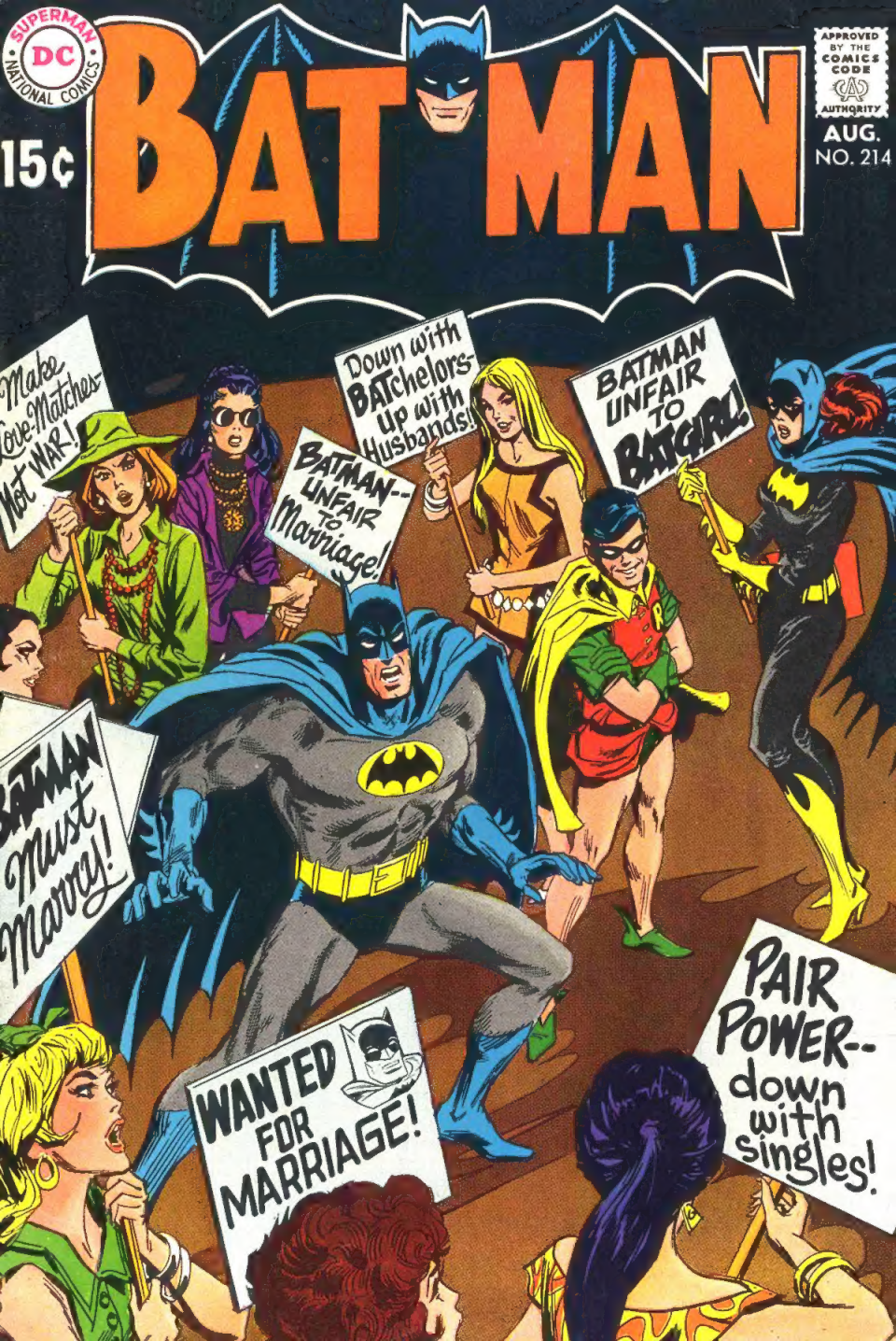
SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS
BATMAN
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
15¢
AUG.
NO. 214
Make Love-Matches-Not WAR!
Down with BAtchelors-up with Husbands!
BATMAN-- UNFAIR TO Marriage!
BATMAN UNFAIR TO BATGIRL!
BATMAN Must Marry!
WANTED FOR MARRIAGE!
PAIR POWER-- down with singles!

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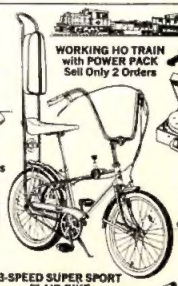
3-SPEED SUPER SPORT FLAIR BIKE
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4-SPEED PHONOGRAPH
Sell Only 2 Orders

FAMILY POOL TABLE
Sell Only 5 Orders

CADET SLEEPING BAG
Sell Only 1 Order

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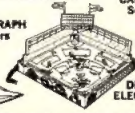
Sell Only 2 Orders

LOUDSPEAKER TELEPHONE INTERCOMS
Sell Only 2 Orders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Sell Only 1 Order

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Sell Only 4 Orders

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STORY: FRANK ROBBINS
BATMAN
ART: IRV NOVICK & JOE GIELLA
BATMAN UNFAIR TO BATGIRL!
BATGIRL'S JOINED THE WEDDING PARADE TOO? THE ONE GIRL IN GOTHAM I THOUGHT I COULD TRUST NOT TO FALL IN LOVE WITH ME!
A NEW KIND OF REVOLT HAS HIT GOTHAM CITY— AND ROCKED IT TO ITS FOUNDATIONS! A GO-GO, GO-FOR-BROKE, ALL-OUT CAMPAIGN TO REMOVE THE MOST ELIGIBLE MALE FROM CIRCULATION! HAS FEAR OF "SPINSTERHOOD" BROKEN DOWN ALL FEMALE BARRIERS, OR IS SOMETHING MORE SINISTER BEHIND THIS MASS MOVE TO "GET BATMAN"? HOW CAN EVEN THE DYNAMIC CRIME-FIGHTER COPE WITH THIS MYSTERIOUS, AMORPHOUS THREAT?
BATMAN'S MARRIAGE TRAP!
6-125
1

BATMAN, No. 214, Aug., 1969. Published monthly, with the exception of April and October by NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC., 2nd & Dickey Sts., SPARTA, ILL. 62286. Editorial, Executive offices, 909 THIRD AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022. Julius Schwartz, Editor. Carmine Infantino, Editorial Director. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT SPARTA, ILL. under the act of March 3, 1879. No subscriptions. For advertising rates address Richard A. Feldon & Co., 41 E. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10017. Copyright © National Periodical Publications, Inc., 1969. All rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred.

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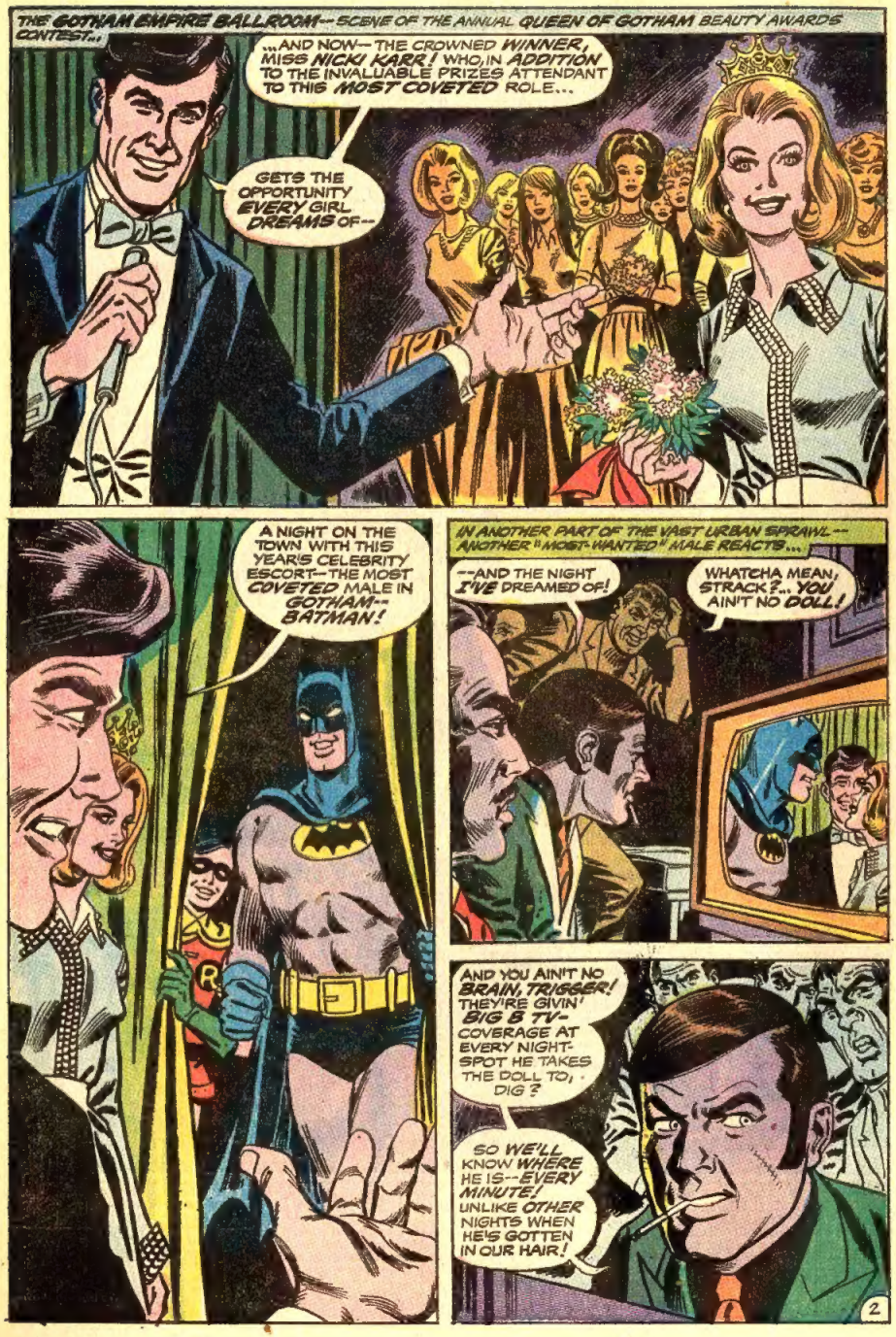
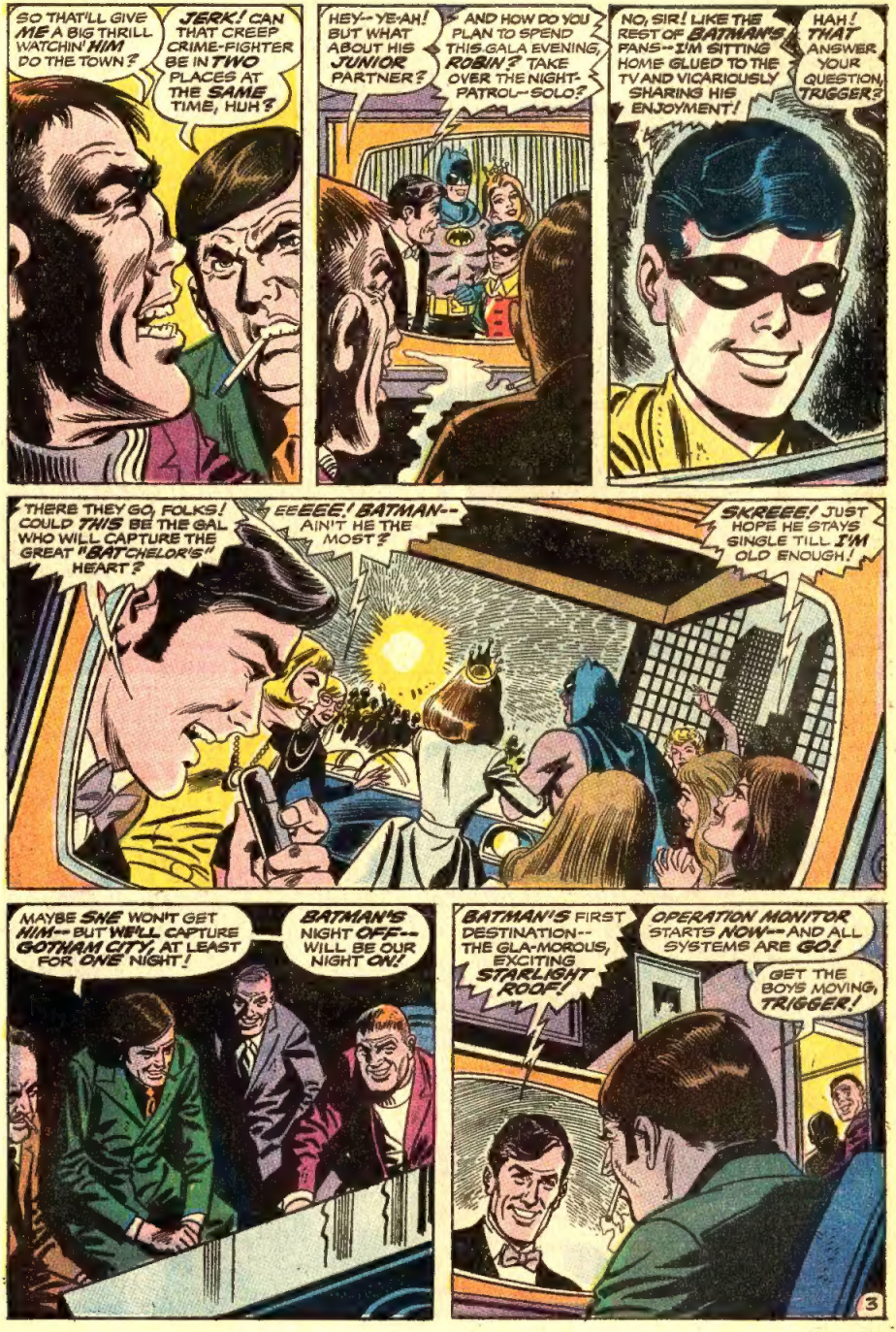

THE GOTHAM EMPIRE BALLROOM--SCENE OF THE ANNUAL QUEEN OF GOTHAM BEAUTY AWARDS CONTEST...
...AND NOW--THE CROWNED WINNER, MISS NICKI KARR! WHO, IN ADDITION TO THE INVALUABLE PRIZES ATTENDANT TO THIS MOST COVETED ROLE...
GETS THE OPPORTUNITY EVERY GIRL DREAMS OF--
A NIGHT ON THE TOWN WITH THIS YEAR'S CELEBRITY ESCORT--THE MOST COVETED MALE IN GOTHAM--BATMAN!
IN ANOTHER PART OF THE VAST URBAN SPRAWL--ANOTHER "MOST-WANTED" MALE REACTS...
--AND THE NIGHT I'VE DREAMED OF!
WHATCHA MEAN, STRACK?... YOU AIN'T NO DOLL!
AND YOU AIN'T NO BRAIN, TRIGGER! THEY'RE GIVIN' BIG 8 TV-COVERAGE AT EVERY NIGHT-SPOT HE TAKES THE DOLL TO, DIG?
SO WE'LL KNOW WHERE HE IS--EVERY MINUTE! UNLIKE OTHER NIGHTS WHEN HE'S GOTTEN IN OUR HAIR!
2


SO THAT'LL GIVE ME A BIG THRILL WATCHIN' HIM DO THE TOWN?
JERK! CAN THAT CREEP CRIME-FIGHTER BE IN TWO PLACES AT THE SAME TIME, HUH?
HEY--YEAH! BUT WHAT ABOUT HIS JUNIOR PARTNER?
AND HOW DO YOU PLAN TO SPEND THIS GALA EVENING, ROBIN? TAKE OVER THE NIGHT-PATROL--SOLO?
NO, SIR! LIKE THE REST OF BATMAN'S FANS--I'M SITTING HOME GLUED TO THE TV AND VICARIOUSLY SHARING HIS ENJOYMENT!
HAH! THAT ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, TRIGGER?
THERE THEY GO, FOLKS! COULD THIS BE THE GAL WHO WILL CAPTURE THE GREAT "BATCHELOR'S" HEART?
EEEEE! BATMAN--AIN'T HE THE MOST?
SKREEE! JUST HOPE HE STAYS SINGLE TILL I'M OLD ENOUGH!
MAYBE SHE WON'T GET HIM--BUT WE'LL CAPTURE GOTHAM CITY, AT LEAST FOR ONE NIGHT!
BATMAN'S NIGHT OFF--WILL BE OUR NIGHT ON!
BATMAN'S FIRST DESTINATION--THE GLA-MOROUS, EXCITING STARLIGHT ROOF!
OPERATION MONITOR STARTS NOW--AND ALL SYSTEMS ARE GO!
GET THE BOYS MOVING, TRIGGER!
3

OPERATION MONITOR SWINGS INTO ACTION...
THE BIG B IS STILL HOOFING IT AT THE STARLIGHT, TRIGGER!
SO WE SEE, BOSS--HEH! HEH! AND WE'RE STOMPIN' OVER TO OUR "STARLIGHT DIAMOND ROOM" HERE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN!
MOMENTS LATER...
AND NOW--LEAVING FOR THE 'LECTRIC DISCOTHEQUE...
STARLIGHT DIAMONDS LTD.
247
WE'RE HITTIN' THE BANKERS' ALUMNI GET-TOGETHER NEXT, BOSS!
CHECK! THAT'LL PUT YOU OVER A MILE AWAY FROM BIG B!
STARLIGHT ROOF
STARLIGHT DIAMONDS LTD.
DISCOTHEQUE
WE'RE CLEANIN' THE "BANK" NOW, BOSS--THEY'RE MAKIN' A NIGHT-DEPOSIT WITH US!
WHAT'S NEXT?
WELCOME
TAKE THE TILL AT THE STARLIGHT ROOF--THEY TOOK IN PLENTY TONIGHT WITH BIG B AS THEIR STAR ATTRACTION!
4

AND SO IT GOES--BATMAN'S GALA EVENING TURNS GOTHAM INTO A GALA GRAB-BAG FOR THE GRASPING GLUTTONS OF OPERATION MONITOR...
Starlight Roof
WHENEVER BATMAN AND HIS "QUEEN" MOVE OUT--WE MOVE IN--AND CASH IN!
NOW THAT BIG B'S LEFT THIS JOINT--LET'S SEPARATE THE PATRONS FROM THEIR GEMS!
THE DIAMOND ROOM
WOW! WHAT A HAUL! THANKS TO BATMAN--WE'RE LOADED WITH LOOT!
AND, IN THE WEE, SMALL HOURS--ARRIVING AT THE SECRET BATCAVE...
PHEW! NEVER AGAIN! FEEL MORE BEAT-UP THAN AFTER A MONTH OF NIGHT-PATROLS!
CHANGING TO HIS OTHER IDENTITY AS BRUCE WAYNE, HE ASCENDS THE BATCAVE ELEVATOR, AND...
YAWN!... LOOKS LIKE DICK HAD A ROUGH NIGHT TOO--JUST KEEPING UP WITH ME ON TV! HE FELL ASLEEP WITH IT STILL ON...
AT THIS EARLY HOUR IT APPEARS THAT BATMAN'S BIG NIGHT OUT...
WAS GANGDOM'S SIGNAL TO MOVE IN! POLICE REPORTS INDICATE THAT THIS WAS A RECORD CRIME-NIGHT!
AND CHANCES ARE IT'LL BE BLAMED ON BATMAN AND ROBIN! GOOD GOSH--CAN WE NEVER HOPE FOR A NIGHT OFF?
THE WELL-ORGANIZED RING SEEMED TO BE GOING IN ON THE HEELS OF BATMAN'S DEPARTURES...
CHEE, BOSS--IF ONLY IT COULD BE LIKE THIS EVERY NIGHT!
MAYBE IT CAN, TRIGGER -- MAYBE IT CAN!
5

LIKE HOW, BOSS?
LIKE IF WE TURN LOOSE THE GREATEST WEAPON WE HAVE AGAINST THE GREAT BATCHELOR OF GOTHAM--
WOMEN!
CLICK
I DON'T DIG! SINCE WHEN IS WOMEN A-- WEAPON?
WHEN THEY MARRY YOU, JERK! EVER SEE A DOTING LIL WOMAN LETTING HER "VICTIM" OUT ON THE TOWN EVERY NIGHT?
YE-AH! AND IF BATMAN WAS COOPED-UP EVERY NIGHT--
GOTHAM WOULD BE WIDE-OPEN TO US! JUST LIKE TONIGHT!
SOUNDS SCREWY, STRACK! NO DAME'S BEEN ABLE TO GET BATMAN ON THE MARRIAGE-GO-ROUND YET--
SEND CLEO IN!
YOU WHISTLED, BOSS?
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.
6

GHOSTLY GLOW-POWER STRIKES!

THE MONSTERS ARE BACK. AND THEY GLOW IN THE DARK.

FOR THE BOY WHO HAS EVERYTHING!
GET THEM BEFORE THEY GET YOU!
WHAT'S NEW SOME GRUESOME?
BRING A FIEND HOME FOR DINNER!
PLAY IT COOL... GHOUL!
WHEN YOU GOTTA GLOW... YOU GOTTA GLOW!
WAIT UNTIL DARK

Aurora has put new life in the Movie Monsters. Wait'll you see what happens when the lights go out! $1.50 each, wherever hobby kits are sold.

FRANKENSTEIN THE WOLF MAN PHANTOM OF THE OPERA THE MUMMY
DRACULA THE FORGOTTEN PRISONER OF CASTLEMARE

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AURORA

Aurora products are manufactured entirely in the U.S. for distribution in America; in Canada for the Commonwealth nations; and in Holland for Europe and Africa.

MY PUCKERING-UP DAYS ARE OVER, BABY-- I'M OUT AFTER BIGGER GAME! AND YOU'RE OUR BAIT!
BUT THIS TRAP HAS TO BE SUPER-SLICK-- REAL CLASS APPROACH! BATMAN'S NO FOOL-- NOW DIG THIS...
THE NEXT DAY--AT A POSH MADISON AVENUE AD AGENCY...
I DON'T HAVE AN APPOINTMENT, BUT-- I DO HAVE A MILLION DOLLARS TO SPEND ON ADVERTISING!
OH... I DIDN'T REALIZE! I'LL GET YOU OUR TOP MAN--MR. BULLFINCH!
A THOUSAND PARDONS FOR MY INEPT RECEPTIONIST! I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE INTERESTED IN... HARUMPH... A LITTLE PROMOTION?
NOT I, MR. BULLFINCH-- BUT THE ORGANIZATION I REPRESENT... W.E.B.!
YES, GENTLEMEN-- W.E.B.-- WOMEN TO END BATCHELORHOOD! WE ARE A NON-PROFIT... ALTRUISTIC... GROUP OF UNMARRIED WOMEN...
WHO WISH TO REMOVE THE ONE BARRIER TO HAPPY MARRIAGE IN GOTHAM! THE SYMBOL OF ALL SINGLE MALE ELIGIBLES...
...BATMAN! THE MOST ELIGIBLE BATCHELOR IN TOWN!
AN INTERESTING CHALLENGE, MISS STARR! BUT, CONFIDENTIALLY-- ARE YOU AFTER HIM?
PERISH THE THOUGHT! I DO ALL RIGHT ON MY OWN!
I PREFER MY SPONSORSHIP TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS-- IN FACT, I INSIST IT DOES!
7

I WANT A SATURATION- CAMPAIGN! HARD- SELL-- SOFT- SELL!
INTRIGUING! IF WE CAN PUT THIS OVER...
...SELLING THE UN-SELLABLE TO A MAN WHO HAS EVERYTHING"!
LIMINAL-- SUB- LIMINAL-- ANYTHING THAT'LL DO THE JOB!
I WANT BATMAN DRIVEN UP A WALL! A WALL HE CAN'T BACK AWAY FROM-- AND HE'LL HAVE TO CHOOSE A MATE!
OUR YEARLY BILLING SHOULD TOP THE CHARTS IN THE AD WORLD!
I CAN SEE IT NOW! GOTHAM'S MOST-WANTED MAN-- BATMAN!
THE MOST BRILLIANT MINDS IN SELLING ANYTHING-- GO TO WORK! AND IN DAYS, ALL OVER GOTHAM CITY...
WANTED!
FOR MARRIAGE
HAVE YOU SEEN THIS MAN? CONTACT YOUR LOCAL W.E.B. CHAPTER...
WANTED!
FOR MARRIAGE
WANTED!
FOR MARRIAGE
WANTED!
FOR MARRIAGE

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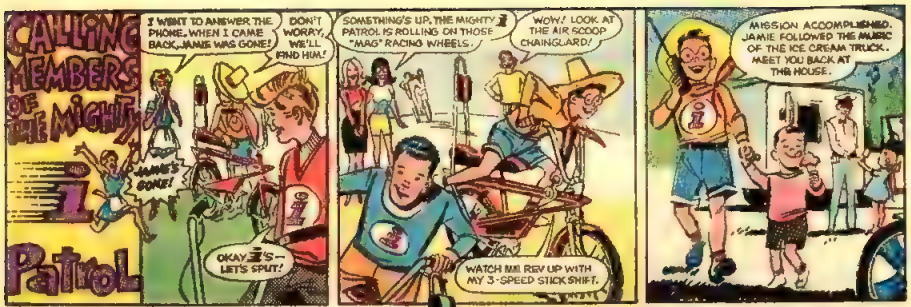
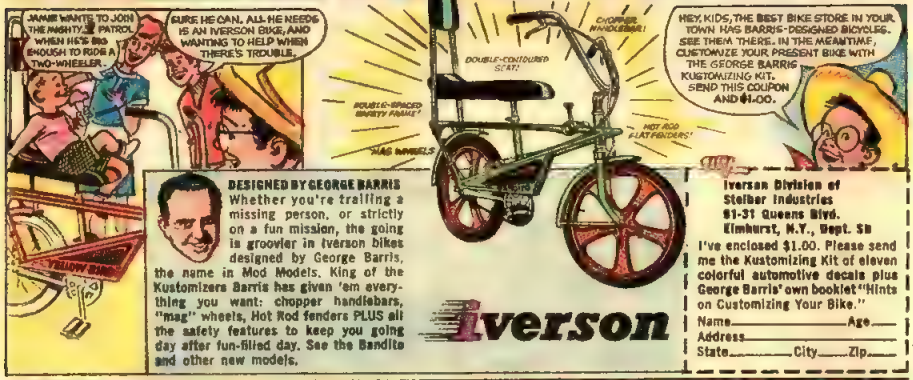

CALLING MEMBERS OF THE MIGHTY J PATROL
I WENT TO ANSWER THE PHONE...WHEN I CAME BACK...JANIE WAS GONE!
DON'T WORRY, WE'LL FIND HIM!
JANIE'S GONE!
OKAY, J'S— LET'S SPLIT!
SOMETHING'S UP. THE MIGHTY J PATROL IS ROLLING ON THOSE "MAG" RACING WHEELS.
WOW! LOOK AT THE AIR SCOOP CHAINGUARD!
WATCH ME REV UP WITH MY 3-SPEED STICK SHIFT.
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED. JAMIE FOLLOWED THE MUSIC OF THE ICE CREAM TRUCK. MEET YOU BACK AT THE HOUSE.


JAMIE WANTS TO JOIN THE MIGHTY J PATROL WHEN HE'S BIG ENOUGH TO RIDE A TWO-WHEELER.
SURE HE CAN. ALL HE NEEDS IS AN IVERSON BIKE, AND WANTING TO HELP WHEN THERE'S TROUBLE.
YELLOW BIRD
CHOPPER HANDLEBAR!
DOUBLE-CONTOURED SEAT!
HEY, KIDS, THE BEST BIKE STORE IN YOUR TOWN HAS BARRIS-DESIGNED BICYCLES. SEE THEM THERE. IN THE MEANTIME, CUSTOMIZE YOUR PRESENT BIKE WITH THE GEORGE BARRIS KUSTOMIZING KIT. SEND THIS COUPON AND $1.00.
HOT ROD FLAT FENDERS!
MAG WHEELS
iverson

DESIGNED BY GEORGE BARRIS

Whether you're trailing a missing person, or strictly on a fun mission, the going is groovier in Iverson bikes designed by George Barris, the name in Mod Models. King of the Kustomizers Barris has given 'em everything you want: chopper handlebars, "mag" wheels, Hot Rod fenders PLUS all the safety features to keep you going day after fun-filled day. See the Bandito and other new models.

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61-31 Queens Blvd.
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PALISADES AMUSEMENT PARK N.J.

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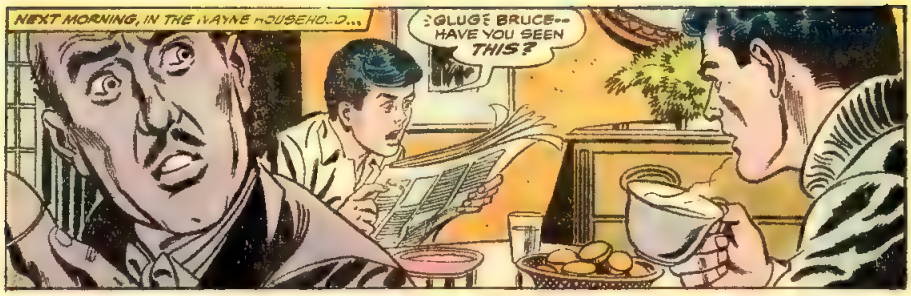
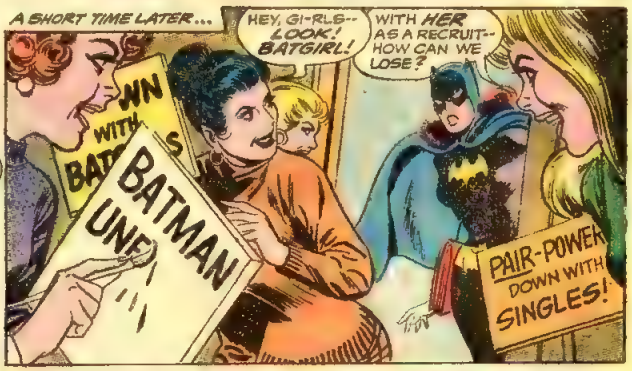
Free Ride SKY PLANE


NEXT MORNING, IN THE WAYNE HOUSEHOLD...
GLUGE BRUCE-- HAVE YOU SEEN THIS?

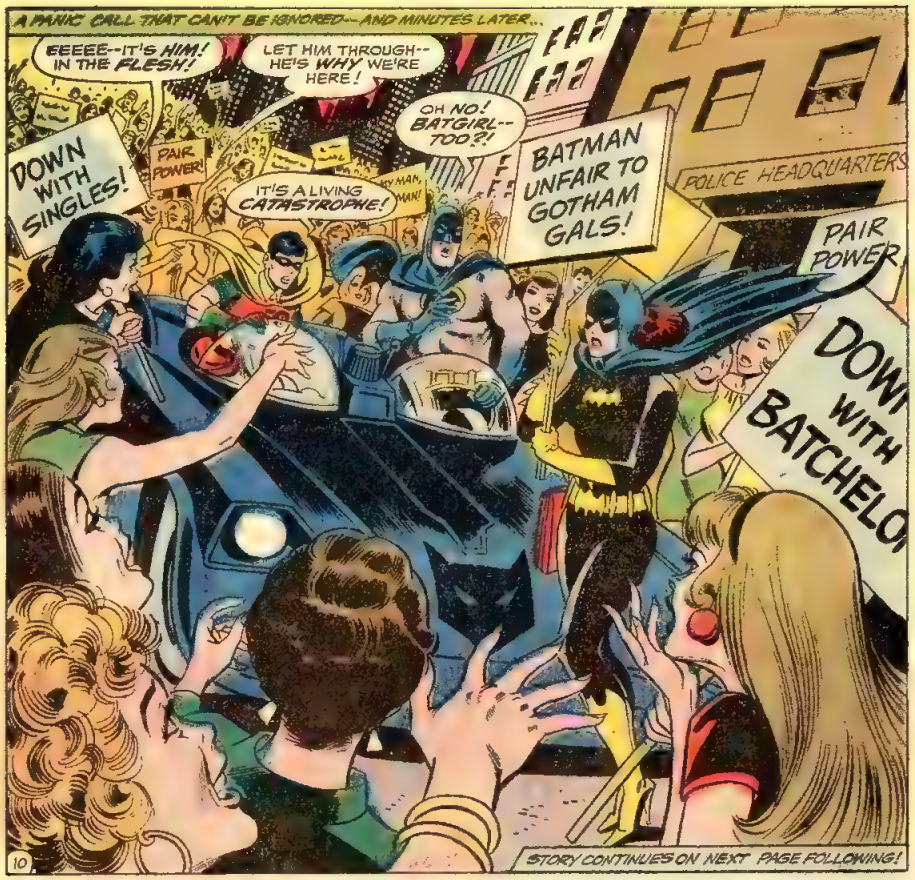
GOTHAM NEWS
MYSTERIOUS GRASS-ROOTS GAL-REVOLT ROCKS GOTHAM!
WANTED
THE APPEARANCE LAST NIGHT IN COUNTLESS MASS MEDIA OF
FOR MARRIA

IT MUST BE SOME SORT OF GHASTLY JOKE, MASTER BRUCE!
AS THE ELEPHANT SAID WHEN THE CROCODILE SNIPPED OFF HIS TRUNK: "VE-WY FUNNY!"

AND AT ANOTHER BREAKFAST TABLE, IN POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON'S HOME...
AS IF WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH PROTEST-GROUPS, BABS, DEAR! AND WE'RE UNDER-STAFFED AS IT IS...
VERY SUSPICIOUS, DAD! WHO'S BEHIND THIS?
I THINK MAYBE BATGIRL BETTER TAKE A LOOK-SEE! "CONTACT YOUR LOCAL W.E.B. CHAPTER," EH?

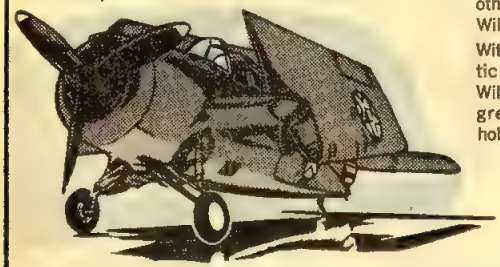

A SHORT TIME LATER...
HEY, GI-RLS-- LOOK! BATGIRL!
WITH HER AS A RECRUIT-- HOW CAN WE LOSE?
BATMAN
PAIR-POWER DOWN WITH SINGLES!

THE GROUND-SWELL MOUNTS TILL IT THREATENS TO TURN INTO A--FLOOD! AND ON THE HOT-LINE...
IT'S A-- SIEGE! YOU'VE GOT TO SEE IT-- TO BELIEVE IT, BATMAN!
IF YOU DON'T MAKE AN APPEARANCE, THERE'S NO ACCOUNTING FOR THE (SHUDDER) CONSEQUENCES!



NINE LIVES

BUILD IT YOURSELF – REVELL'S MODEL-OF-THE-MONTH FOR JUNE, THE F4F-4 WILDCAT.



In the early days of World War II, the stubby-nosed Wildcat was a born fighter, but vastly outnumbered by the Japanese fighters. Ah, but the Japanese reckoned without one Lt. Cmdr. James Thach, Wildcat ace and now an admiral, who invented the intricate "Thach Weave." When counterattacked, the Wildcats wove back and forth to protect each other from rear attacks. This maneuver gave many Wildcats nine lives.

With a 13¼" wingspread, folding wings and authentic cockpit, your ½-scale Revell model is a true Wildcat in every detail. It's a joy to build, and looks great in a den. Sells for $2, wherever toys or hobbies are sold.

Send 35¢ for color catalog of new kits. Revell, Inc., 4209 Glencoe Ave., Venice, Calif. 90291.

Revell

NEVER HANDLED ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE, BATMAN! WHAT DO WE DO?
RECOGNIZE THAT A GENERAL WHO KNOWS WHEN TO RETREAT LIVES TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY!
SPLIT UP, GIRLS-- HE'S GETTING AWAY!
AROUND THE BLOCK-- WE'LL CUT HIM OFF AT MAIN AND THIRD!
BATMAN IS UNFAIR MARRIAGE
WHY BATMAN
THE BRILLIANT PARA-MILITARY MANEUVER SWINGS INTO ACTION...
BATMAN--LOOK! THEY'RE GOING TO ROAD-BLOCK US!
AND IF WE CAN'T TURN AT THE INTERSECTION-- WE'RE BOTTLE-NECKED!

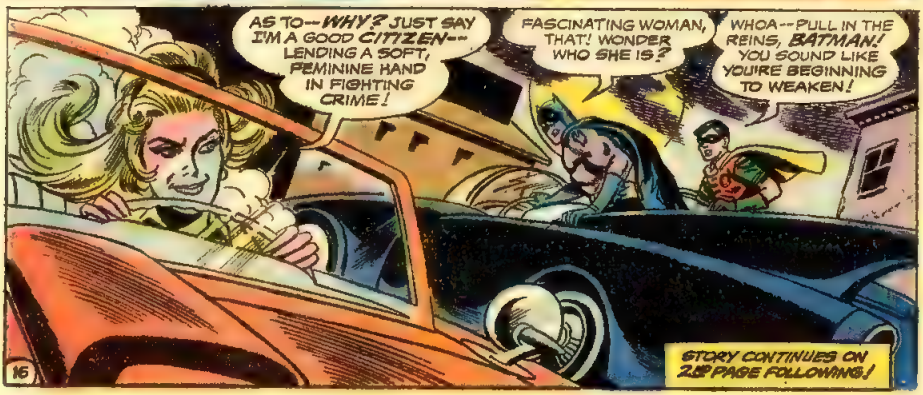
SUDDENLY--FROM AN UNNOTICED ALLEY...
NOW OPERATION BAIT MOVES IN!
FIRST PHASE--TO SMOKE OUT THE OPPOSITION!
THEN SPEEDING PAST THE BATMOBILE, CLEO MASKS THEM OFF FROM THE SECONDARY PURSUIT COLUMN...
WE'VE BEEN REPRIEVED--BY ANOTHER FEMALE!
BETTER MAKE OUR TURN FAST--WE'LL NEVER GET ANOTHER CHANCE LIKE THIS!
WHOEVER YOU ARE, MISS--YOU'RE AN ANGEL IN DISGUISE! HOW'D YOU EVER DREAM UP A SMOKESCREEN SO QUICKLY?

YOU FLATTER YOURSELF, BATMAN! I WOULDN'T BURN OUT MY ENGINE TO SAVE ANY MAN!
JUST CONSIDER YOURSELF LUCKY I NEED A PISTON-RING JOB-- AND YOU NEED A SMOKE-SCREEN!
PHASE ONE-- COMPLETED! BATMAN HAS JUST MET THE ONLY SINGLE FEMME IN GOTHAM WHO'LL GIVE HIM THE BRUSH-OFF!
AND IF I KNOW MY MEN--IN A SHORT TIME HE'LL BE CHASING ME!
THAT NIGHT...
WE'VE GOT TO KEEP UP THE PRESSURE, GALS--DAY AND NIGHT, TILL BATMAN WEAKENS! SO HERE'S THE TACTIC...
WE'RE SPLITTING UP INTO MOBILE STRIKE GROUPS!
WITH THIS MINI-RADIO TUNED INTO THE POLICE-BAND, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO MONITOR BATMAN'S ACTIVITIES--AND HIT HIM EVERY-PLACE HE SHOWS!
GOOD LUCK-- AND HAPPY HUNTING!
THANKS, MISS STARR!
13

BATMAN AND ROBIN! GO TO THE CORNER OF WHARF AND FRONT STREETS -- INVESTIGATE SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY!
WHAT A RELIEF TO BE BACK AT CRIME-FIGHTING, ROBIN-- WITH NO FRANTIC FEMMES FUMBLING UP OUR LIFE!
WANTE
MAR RIAGE
MOMENTS LATER...
FUR THIEVES! AND WE'VE GOT THEM...
... RED-HANDED!
FUR
STORA
SUDDENLY--FROM AN APPARENTLY DESERTED SIDE STREET...
EEEEE! HERE HE IS! THIS MONITOR CAMPAIGN IS A WINNER, GALS!
WE'VE GOT HIM NOW! HE'S GOT TO DECIDE...
...WHO THE LUCKY GAL IS!
W-WHA...?!
OH-H-- NO! OF ALL TIMES...!

HANDS OFF-- PLEASE, LADIES! YOU'RE INTERFERING WITH LAW AND ORDER!
BATMAN-- THE CROOKS ARE GETTING AWAY! AND WE'RE TIED UP IN KNOTS!
BUT A SUDDEN INTERCEPTION STARTS TO UNRAVEL THE KNOT!
ULP!
GET YOUR GRASPING...
...CLUTCHING CLAWS...
...OFF THIS POOR...
...HELPLESS
...MALE!
IT'S A LIVIN' WILDCAT!
YOU SHOULD ALL BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELVES! TRYING TO ACHIEVE BY FORCE WHAT YOU CAN'T GAIN BY FEMININE WILES!
OUR MYSTERY WOMAN AGAIN! HOW DID SHE KNOW?
I COULDN'T CARE LESS, BATMAN! ANYTHING TO BE RID OF THOSE WILD CHICKS -PHEW!
15

SERIOUSLY, MISS--HOW DID YOU KNOW WE WERE IN TROUBLE? AND WHY DID YOU--?
FIRST--I DIDN'T KNOW! YOU DON'T THINK I'D GO OUT OF MY WAY TO RESCUE AN EGOTISTICAL SUPER-MALE LIKE YOU, BATMAN?
I JUST HAPPENED ALONG--AFTER GETTING MY CAR REPAIRED NEAR HERE!


AS TO--WHY? JUST SAY I'M A GOOD CITIZEN--LENDING A SOFT, FEMININE HAND IN FIGHTING CRIME!
FASCINATING WOMAN, THAT! WONDER WHO SHE IS?
WHOA--PULL IN THE REINS, BATMAN! YOU SOUND LIKE YOU'RE BEGINNING TO WEAKEN!
16
STORY CONTINUES ON 28TH PAGE FOLLOWING!

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First, we would like to thank you for having bought this DC Magazine, even though it cost you three cents more than usual. Obviously, you like our magazine and consider our stories worth the extra three pennies. That makes us feel mighty proud!

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The Editors

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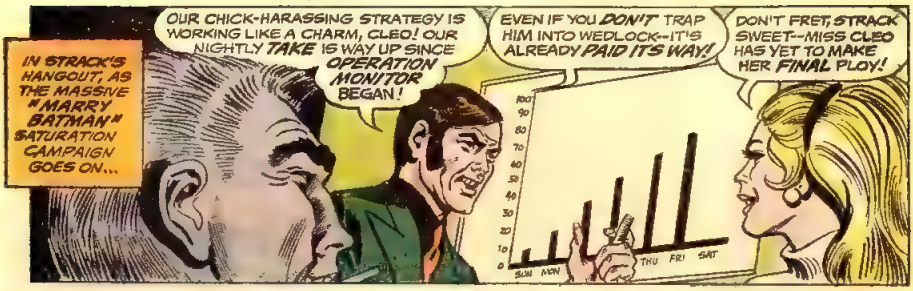
IN STRACK'S HANGOUT, AS THE MASSIVE "MARRY BATMAN" SATURATION CAMPAIGN GOES ON...
OUR CHICK-HARASSING STRATEGY IS WORKING LIKE A CHARM, CLEO! OUR NIGHTLY TAKE IS WAY UP SINCE OPERATION MONITOR BEGAN!
EVEN IF YOU DON'T TRAP HIM INTO WEDLOCK--IT'S ALREADY PAID ITS WAY!
DON'T FRET, STRACK SWEET--MISS CLEO HAS YET TO MAKE HER FINAL PLOY!
100
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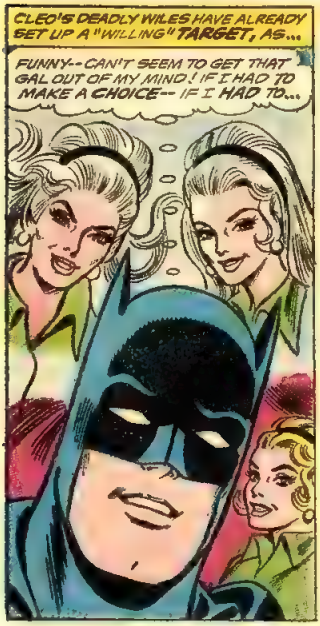
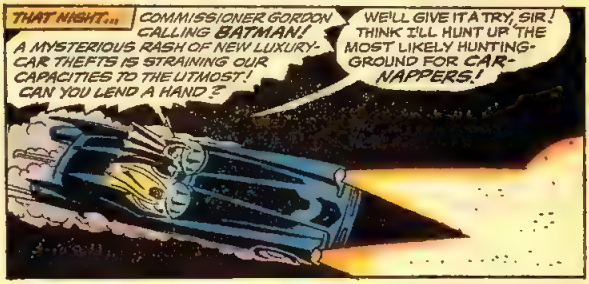
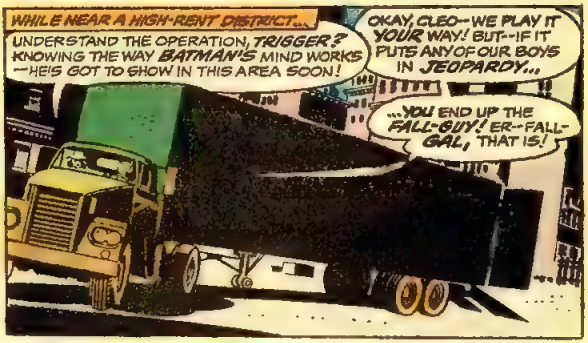
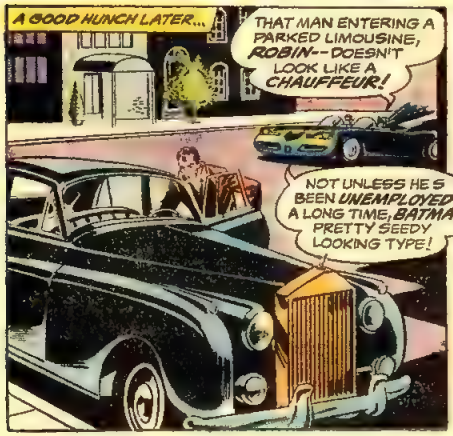
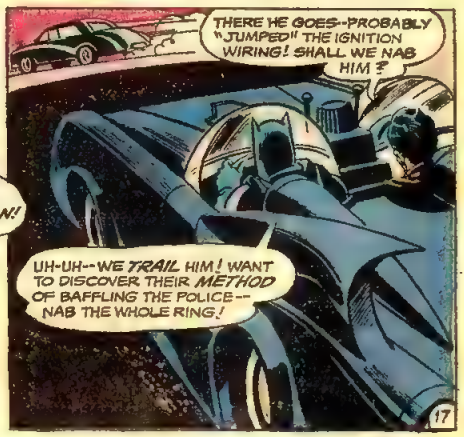
THU FRI SAT


CLEO'S DEADLY WILES HAVE ALREADY SET UP A "WILLING" TARGET, AS...
FUNNY--CAN'T SEEM TO GET THAT GAL OUT OF MY MIND! IF I HAD TO MAKE A CHOICE-- IF I HAD TO...


THAT NIGHT... COMMISSIONER GORDON CALLING BATMAN! A MYSTERIOUS RASH OF NEW LUXURY-CAR THEFTS IS STRAINING OUR CAPACITIES TO THE UTMOST! CAN YOU LEND A HAND?
WE'LL GIVE IT A TRY, SIR! THINK I'LL HUNT UP THE MOST LIKELY HUNTING-GROUND FOR CAR-NAPPERS!


WHILE NEAR A HIGH-RENT DISTRICT...
UNDERSTAND THE OPERATION, TRIGGER? KNOWING THE WAY BATMAN'S MIND WORKS --HE'S GOT TO SHOW IN THIS AREA SOON!
OKAY, CLEO--WE PLAY IT YOUR WAY! BUT--IF IT PUTS ANY OF OUR BOYS IN JEOPARDY...
...YOU END UP THE FALL-GUY! ER--FALL-GAL, THAT IS!


A GOOD HUNCH LATER...
THAT MAN ENTERING A PARKED LIMOUSINE, ROBIN--DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A CHAUFFEUR!
NOT UNLESS HE'S BEEN UNEMPLOYED A LONG TIME, BATMAN! PRETTY SEEDY LOOKING TYPE!


THERE HE GOES--PROBABLY "JUMPED" THE IGNITION WIRING! SHALL WE NAB HIM?
UH-UH--WE TRAIL HIM! WANT TO DISCOVER THEIR METHOD OF BAFFLING THE POLICE-- NAB THE WHOLE RING!

TAILING THE STOLEN CAR TO A DESERTED BACK STREET...
SEE? DRIVING A NEW CAR INTO A TRAILER-TRUCK--THEN WHEN THEY'VE GOT A FULL LOAD, THEY TAKE OFF!
AND PROBABLY SHIP THEM ELSEWHERE TO A WAITING--AND HIGH-PAYING--MARKET!
WE JUMP THEM NOW?
BUT BEFORE THEY CAN MAKE THEIR MOVE...!
THAT CAR--
OUR MYSTERY-GAL'S SPORTS CAR! ONLY ONE LIKE IT IN TOWN!
THEN QUICKLY ACCELER-ATING...
WE CUT HIM OFF BEFORE IT LEAVES TOWN!
SKREEE!
SKREEE!
B-BATMAN?!
NEXT INSTANT--THE TRAP IS SPRUNG!
THEY FELL FOR IT, BOYS! JUMP 'EM--!
KTHUNK
IT WAS A--SET-UP, BATMAN! OOF!
18

WE WALKED RIGHT INTO THIS, ROBIN--LET'S NOT GET CARRIED OUT!
PRETTY STEEP ODDS--BUT MAYBE WE CAN EVEN THEM UP!
ZAP!
THE ODDS ARE STILL AGAINST YOU, BAT-PUNK!
TAKE HIM, BUDDY!
KAPOW!
MY PLEASURE, PAL! ONE GOOD SHOT--DESERVES ANOTHER!
SUDDENLY FROM OFFSIDE...
K-CHONK!
OOOF!
BAFF!
Y-YOU...? SAVED MY NECK AGAIN, MISS--
NAME'S CLEO--STARR! BEEN CHASING THAT PUNK FOR BLOCKS!
WOK!
CONTINUED ON A 10¢ PAGE FOLLOWING...
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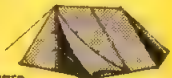
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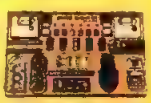
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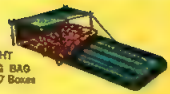
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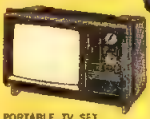
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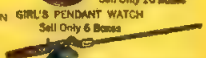
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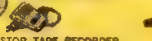
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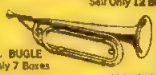
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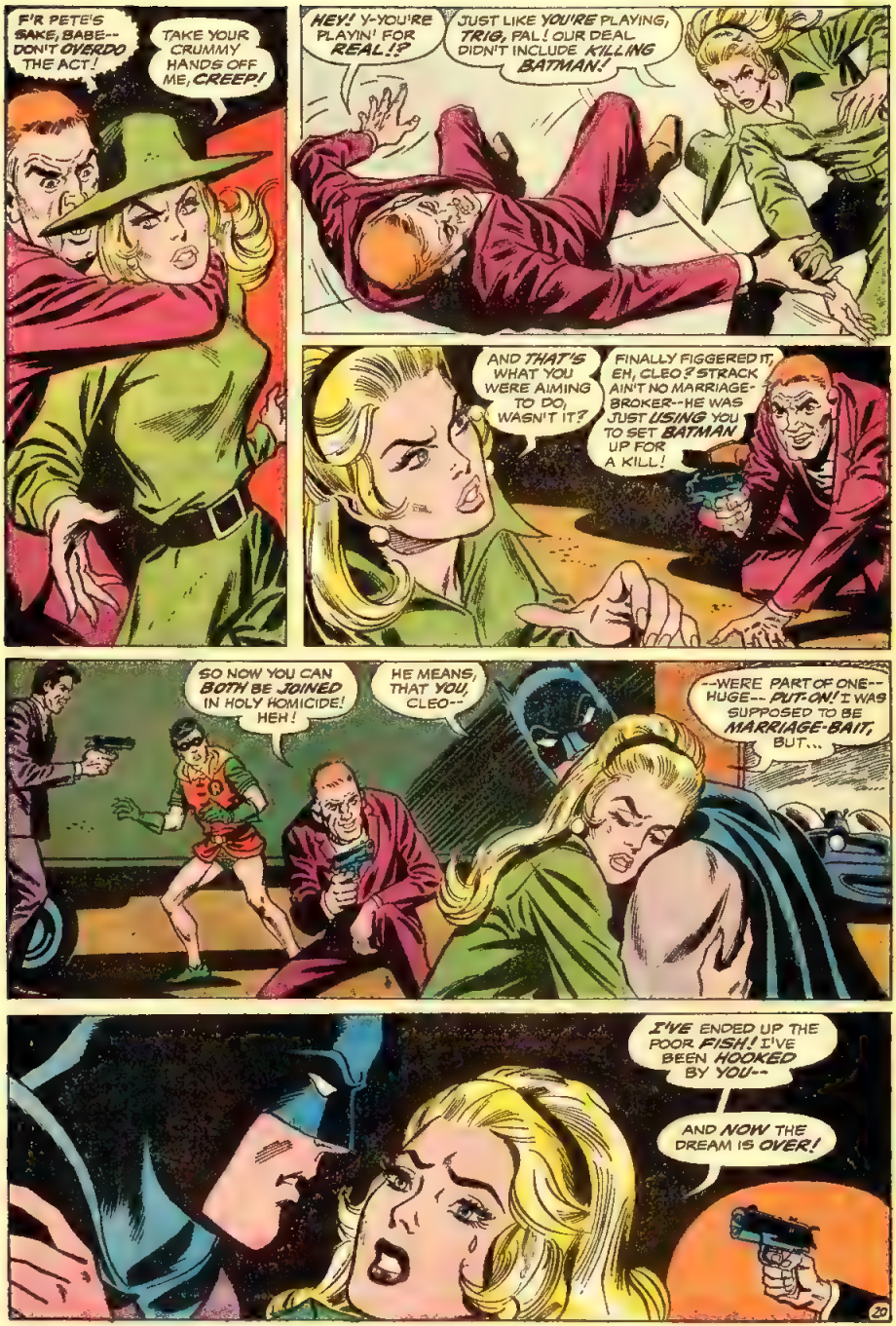
F'R PETE'S SAKE, BABE-- DON'T OVERDO THE ACT!
TAKE YOUR CRUMMY HANDS OFF ME, CREEP!
HEY! Y-YOU'RE PLAYIN' FOR REAL!?
JUST LIKE YOU'RE PLAYING, TRIG, PAL! OUR DEAL DIDN'T INCLUDE KILLING BATMAN!
AND THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE AIMING TO DO, WASN'T IT?
FINALLY FIGGERED IT, EH, CLEO? STRACK AIN'T NO MARRIAGE-BROKER--HE WAS JUST USING YOU TO SET BATMAN UP FOR A KILL!
SO NOW YOU CAN BOTH BE JOINED IN HOLY HOMICIDE! HEH!
HE MEANS, THAT YOU, CLEO--
--WERE PART OF ONE-- HUGE-- PUT-ON! I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE MARRIAGE-BAIT, BUT...
I'VE ENDED UP THE POOR FISH! I'VE BEEN HOOKED BY YOU--
AND NOW THE DREAM IS OVER!
20

...IN SICKNESS AN' IN HEALTH, TILL--HAW--DEATH DO YOU BOTH PART! AN' SINCE I HEAR NO OBJECTIONS --I PRONOUNCE YOU...
I OBJECT!
KA-POW!
BATGIRL!
I DON'T KNOW HOW--BUT...
BATCHUK
I JOINED W.E.B. TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS! AND WHEN A MYSTERIOUS, DISGUISED FEMALE STARTED LEADING OUR "BRIEFINGS"...
...I DECIDED TO TRAIL HER!
I SAW HER TURN HER SPORTS JOB OVER TO ONE OF THESE "CAR THIEVES"--KNOWING IT WOULD LURE YOU INTO THE TRAP!
IT'S ALL--HORRIBLY--TRUE, BATMAN! BUT WHAT BATGIRL CAN'T POSSIBLY KNOW IS...
...THAT I'D BECOME VICTIM OF MY OWN TRAP! I WAS PLAYING HARD-TO-GET--BUT, BABY--YOU GOT TO ME! ISN'T IT ;SOB; F-FUNNY...
MORE SAD THAN FUNNY, CLEO! IT WASN'T YOUR CLEVER COME-ON, BUT YOUR BRASH FRESHNESS AND DARING--FEMININE YET FORCEFUL...
...THAT LED ME TO HOPE WE MIGHT SHARE A COMMON FUTURE--TOGETHER! IF THIS HADN'T COME OUT INTO THE OPEN, I MIGHT HAVE--
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.
21

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YES, CLEO--AND HOW I WISH IT HADN'T TURNED OUT THIS WAY...
BUT--THERE MAY BE A WAY YOU CAN MAKE IT LESS PAINFUL--FOR BOTH OF US!
AND SO, A SHORT TIME LATER, AT STRACK'S HEADQUARTERS...
BOSS--LOOK! WHAT'S WITH CLEO?
SHE'S CRAZY OR SOMETHING? BRINGING BATMAN'S BODY HERE?
I TOLD TRIGGER TO DUMP HIM--AND HER! WHAT HAPPENED...?
NO MATTER WHAT, STRACK--WE GOTTA DUMP 'EM NOW!
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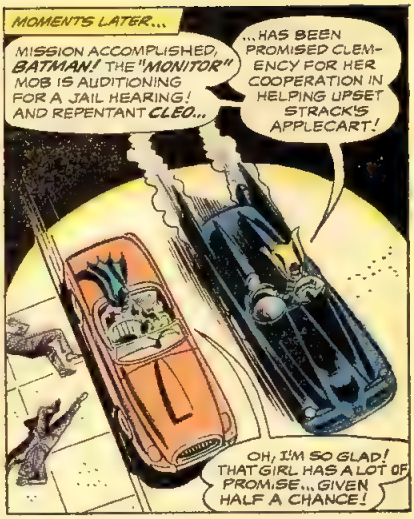
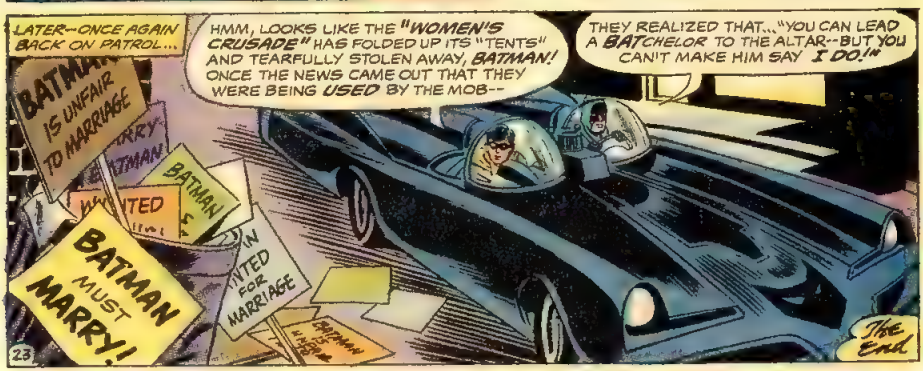
22


MOMENTS LATER...
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED, BATMAN! THE "MONITOR" MOB IS AUDITIONING FOR A JAIL HEARING! AND REPENTANT CLEO...
...HAS BEEN PROMISED CLEMENCY FOR HER COOPERATION IN HELPING UPSET STRACK'S APPLECART!
OH, I'M SO GLAD! THAT GIRL HAS A LOT OF PROMISE...GIVEN HALF A CHANCE!


LATER--ONCE AGAIN BACK ON PATROL...
HMM, LOOKS LIKE THE "WOMEN'S CRUSADE" HAS FOLDED UP ITS "TENTS" AND TEARFULLY STOLEN AWAY, BATMAN! ONCE THE NEWS CAME OUT THAT THEY WERE BEING USED BY THE MOB--
THEY REALIZED THAT..."YOU CAN LEAD A BATCHELOR TO THE ALTAR--BUT YOU CAN'T MAKE HIM SAY I DO."
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23

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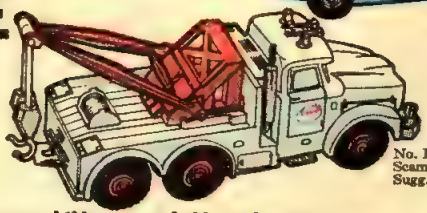

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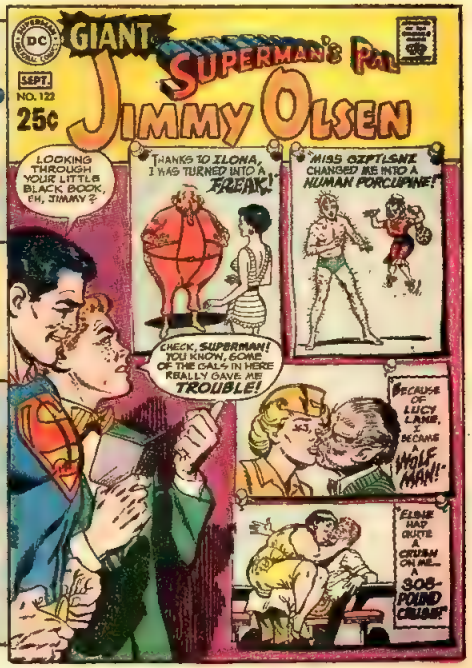
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JIMMY OLSEN
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LOOKING THROUGH YOUR LITTLE BLACK BOOK, EH, JIMMY?
THANKS TO ILONA, I WAS TURNED INTO A FREAK!
MISS OZFTLSNZ CHANGED ME INTO A HUMAN PORCUPINE!
CHECK, SUPERMAN! YOU KNOW, SOME OF THE GALS IN HERE REALLY GAVE ME TROUBLE!
BECAUSE OF LUCY LANE, I BECAME A WOLF MAN!
ELSIE HAD QUITE A CRUSH ON ME... A 305-POUND CRUSH!

LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE S-199

Dear Editor:

I greet the "new" *Catwoman* with a mixture of feelings. When I first saw *Batman* #210 on the magazine rack, I was angry that my favorite villainess was *not* featured on the cover. "How could they do a thing like that?" I asked myself. Even before seeing the comic, I had known *Catwoman* was in the issue, because the previous issue (209) had given us a preview. So, after purchasing a copy, and skimming through the story, I slowly began to realize that *Catwoman* had undergone another change, and that the figure so prominently displayed on the cover besides *Batman* was indeed the *Princess of Plunder,* in a new costume and hairdo.

At first I was tempted to tear the comic to shreds and forget about it—then, deciding I couldn't judge a mag by its cover, I retried and read it. "The Case of the Purr-Loined Pearl" was an *excellent* story! It contained action and adventure, all neatly woven into a suspense-filled plot. In fact, the only thing I didn't like was the title! The pearl played such a minor part, and was never actually *purr*-loined, so I think a more apt title would have been, "Batman Fights the Legion of Feline Furies!"

Getting back to the subject of the "new" *Catwoman*—after finishing the story, I went back and began to form a new opinion of her costume and hairdo. Although I'll miss the old *Catwoman,* the new *Princess of Plunder* is really great!

—SCOTT GIBSON, Sterling, Colo.

(Catwoman's unheralded change heralded a blast of comments, ranging from sweet music to sour notes. So more music, maestri, please!—Editor)

* * * * * *

Dear Editor:

Batman #210 was, in a nutshell, an unfortunate attempt at a really good issue. All the familiar ingredients were there, but...well, to begin with, the cover was a grabber. I hope Neal Adams' covers become a habit on *Batman* and *Detective,* because they sure as heck are more tempting when one sees them on the stands.

My all-time favorite villainous villainess, *Catwoman,* has returned. Unfortunately (again I use the word), she has undergone her umpteenth change, and this time it's for the worse. Her long hair has been clipped, her impressive costume has been cut down to scanty nothingness, and even her face has filled out a little. It's disenchanting to see a good criminal go bad right before your eyes.

As for Frank Robbins, *Batman's* resident scripter ...I love his plots but his dialogue needs work. The intricate, involved storylines are real *Batman* material, but the narrative and dialogue are laden with melodramatic schmaltz. This time, the story ended all too fast; the short explicative paragraph at the very end seemed obvious and even faintly apologetic. Another thing: Robbins' use of alliteration is bugging me. We have *Big Barbara, Florid Flo* and *Sultry Sarah* to contend with, as well as the *Nizam of Nepal,* the *Potala Pearl,* and a *Catwoman* speech reading, "Sleekest, slinkiest saber-toothed terrors..." And, oh yes, keep the gags subtle—Mayor John V.L. of *Gotham City?* Too, too much!

—*STEVE BERRY, Alma, Mich.*

(A note of interest we neglected to tag on to the previous editorial comment—Frank Robbins, a highly acclaimed syndicate artist, designed the new Catwoman, *along with her* Cat-illac.—Editor)

* * * * * *

Dear Editor:

I'm always glad to see *Catwoman* return to fight *Batman* since, as everybody knows by now, I am the staunchest supporter of super-villains around. But still, my attitude toward *CW* has changed over the years. In the latest *Batman-Catwoman* story you have dropped several of the best aspects of the *CW* stories while continuing the old, worn-out ones. For example, how long has it been since the old "nine lives" routine was used? True, it has been used in the past, but *CW's* apparent death scenes tended to make her more of an enigma, more of a shadowy figure of the night. All the *Batman* regular villains need to be mysterious; they need not and usually should not deal with super-weapons; the *Bat*-foes of the old days were more terrifying than they are today. The *Joker* evidently started out not as today's almost lovable antagonist but as a murderer whose warped sense of humor served to make him more horrific. Obviously, you can't make *Joker* a murderer again, but you should be able to make him into more of the totally evil criminal of old.

Also, you've dropped *Catwoman's* love-hate relationship with *Batman,* which, although poorly handled in the past, had great potential. And unwittingly, you dropped *CW's* mastery of criminal strategy. Let's face it—all she did this issue was try to pull off one robbery. No series of robberies, no kidnapings, no blackmailings, no attempt to kill *Batman.*

Catwoman's cat-cunning, *cat*-independence (of men, which creates her contradictory attitudes toward *Batman*) and her nine lives, then, should be played up. Add a few *cat*-gimmicks like her *cat-o'-nine* tails and you're all set. But instead you have gone overboard on *cat*-details. Instead of those WHOOPIE green tights she wore last time out she now has a costume with a nice long juvenile cat's tail on it. She purrs and spits and tears at yarn. And she's still making those lousy *cat*-puns as motives for her crimes. *Batman* doesn't flap his arms and hang from the ceiling so why should *CW* act so ridiculously *cat*-like? The day of the old *Catwoman* is over. And one more thing—if I see *CW* fooling everybody into thinking she's reformed one more time, I'll...

—*PETER SANDERSON, JR., Milton, Mass.*

* * * * * *

Dear Editor:

Purr-fect—which is the way to describe "The Case of the Purr-loined Pearl!" I've waited for the *Feline Fury's* return—but nine? And that new costume—*cat*-chy! As for the *Cat-illac*—it makes the old *Kitty Car* look like a *Tin Lizzy!* Please keep the new *Catwoman* as presented in *Batman* #210—and keep bringing her back more often!

—*JOHN VAN BRUGGEN, JR., Oshava, Ont., Can.*

* * * * * *

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